

Anne Schadde Juergen Hansel

# Listening to Stone, Wood and Shell

Lapis lazuli

Lithium carbonicum

Ephedra sinica

Ginkgo biloba

Lignum aquilaria agallocha

Cypraea eglantina (Cowrie snail)

Homoeopathic Medical Publishers



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**Listening to  
Stone, Wood and Shell**

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## LAPIS LAZULI

Anne Schadde and Jüergen Hansel

*God sleeps in rocks  
Dreams in plants  
Awakens in animals  
And acts in men.*

(Native American proverb)

Since I was a child, I collected rocks whether they were round or angular, smooth or rough, ugly or beautiful, grey or colored. Every single one is special to me because it is different and unique in its shape, color and character. Each one is a small part of this vast and diverse world.

I remember my grandparents' house when I bit into an apple jelly sandwich, sensing the unique musty smell of the basement with its many stored apples, the squeaking of the steep wooden stairs, and the sunlight in the windows that made the dust in the air visible. Just like that, a stone can connect me with worlds of ideas. Peridot brings me back to the beach with huge clouds of spray caused by waves breaking on the rough lava rocks of Lanzarote. Quartz reminds me of the light in a church in Tuscany that had no roof, of the enchantment of this atmosphere. Vanadinite allows me to see the colors of the scanty rocky desert in Morocco with its intense scent of wild herbs. Special stones add to the particular atmosphere of many places. Usually we do not notice the stones but only the place or the sights. But the stones were there first.

They provide us with the form without which the world would dissolve. Rocks form nature as coast, demarcating the water, and as landscape, impressive in the desert and the mountains. What have the rock formations of the mountains and the myriads of grains of sand in the desert taught the wise men and women, even Jesus? Loneliness, quiet,

# LITHIUM CARBONICUM $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$

Anne Schadde

## SUBSTANCE

### The Element Lithium (Li)<sup>1</sup>

Lithium is a metallic element in group 1 of the periodic table with an atomic number 3 and atomic weight of 6.941. It is a ductile, silvery shining metal, which has an initially yellow later grey tarnished sectional plane. According to its position in group 1 of the periodic table its valence is 1 and its compounds are colourless. As with all alkaline metals (all the chemical elements in group 1 of the periodic table with the valence of 1: Natrium, Kalium, Rubidium, Caesium and Francium) it is very reactive. Lithium oxidizes when in contact with air forming the oxide  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$  and the nitride  $\text{Li}_3\text{N}$ . It reacts with water by forming hydrogen and Lithium-Hydroxide  $\text{LiOH}$  and burns with an intense red light forming Lithium-Oxide  $\text{Li}_2\text{O}$ . Lithium compounds also burn with a crimson colored flame.

The Swedish chemist August Arfvedson discovered the metal in the year 1817 in the mineral petalite, found in Sweden. It was called "Lithion" (after the greek word "lithos" = rock) because, in contrast to natrium or kalium that had been found thus far only in plant ashes, it was initially located in a mineral. It is extracted from Lithium containing minerals (spodumen, amblygonite, lepidolith, petalite) mined in the USA, Canada, Russia, China, Australia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Austria, Zaire and salt lakes in North and South America. In nature, Lithium can be found only in very small amounts in plant ashes. Leeser<sup>2</sup> writes: "Plants of the ranunculaceae and solanaceae families show particular affinity to

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<sup>1</sup> Römpp Chemie Lexikon

<sup>2</sup> Leesers Lehrbuch d. Homöopathie, Bd. 2: Mineralische Arzneistoffe, S. 98

# EPHEDRA SINICA

Juergen Hansel

Ephedra is one of the most ancient power plants and it has been known in traditional medicine in many parts of the world. Its main alkaloid Ephedrine was one of the first natural compounds to be chemically synthesized. Regarding its importance in pharmacology it is astonishing that this peculiar plant escaped the notice of the homeopathic community. Because of the chemical relation to amphetamines and ecstasy, one of the most infamous lifestyle drugs of our time, we decided to give Ephedra the long deserved honour of a homeopathical proving on the occasion of a seminar about the use of psychoactive drugs in homeopathy.

## SUBSTANCE

### Botany

The *Ephedra* plant, also called joint fir or uva maritima, is an inconspicuous, low, straggling or climbing shrub of mostly less than one meter of height. Its rudimentary leaves and tiny white blossoms developing into uneatable red pulpous pseudo-berries can be easily overlooked. With its rod-like twigs it resembles horse-tail (*Equisetum*) to which nonetheless there is no botanical relation.

*Ephedra* is the only genus of the family *Ephedraceae* and belongs to the class of *Gnetophyte*, a small and isolated group in the botanical system which seems like a relic of ages long past. In former times this group was well differentiated but most of its members have become extinct and we only know them as fossils. The only living relatives of *Ephedra* are a genus of tropical trees and liana with 30 or more species named *Gnetum* giving name to the entire class of plants and a genus of just one species resembling giant radishes, the strange *Welwitschia mirabilis* of South

## GINKGO BILOBA

Anne Schadde

### SUBSTANCE

Ginkgo biloba and the art of narrating

... *the poem*

*This leaf from a tree in the East,  
Has been given to my garden.  
It reveals a certain secret,  
Which pleases me and thoughtful People.  
Does it represent One living creature  
Which has divided itself?  
Or are these Two, which have decided,  
That they should be as One?  
To reply to such a Question,  
I found the right answer:  
Do you notice in my songs and verses  
That I am One and Two?*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Gingo biloba” (15. Sept. 1815), from: “Suleika” poems

The poem is part of the “Suleika” poems, a collection of oriental lyric. Here Goethe devotes himself, in the “western-oriental encounter”, to the distant, different culture. “Hatem” (Goethe’s poet-ego) expresses his feelings in the poems towards his beloved “Suleika”. The Gingo-poem (Goethe dropped the “hard k”) was inspired by his enthusiastic love for

## LIGNUM AQUILARIA AGALLOCHA

Anne Schadde

*Wood, resin, fragrance of the eaglewood tree*  
*Fragrance Between Dream and Day*  
*In the depths of the night the new day begins*

Feel invited to discover the mysterious world of a very old wood used for fumigation – the biblical wood aloe or eaglewood.

It contains the old alchemistic mythology of the process of transformation. The trees only grow in the deepest jungle, in the so-called heart of the earth, and it is threatened to die out. The secretion of the wood's resin develops in symbiosis with fungi.

The attempts of separation, repulsion and final integration of the infestation of the fungus are possibly the processes that make the wood so precious. Only after these processes does the precious resin called wood aloe or eaglewood come into being. Separation becomes integration and then we have, as essence, the substance for fumigation.

It has an outstanding position in the art of fumigation.

Try to imagine the most complicated and refined scent: aromatic and erotic, stimulating and balsamically soothing at the same time, earthy and woody. Eaglewood exudes an inimitable aroma, when it is fumigated.

The scent could not be reproduced synthetically. Scientists assume pheromone-like components in the scent. The ethnologist Professor Rättsch dedicates a whole chapter in his encyclopaedia of love substances to it. It is also referenced in the encyclopaedia of psychoactive plants. Wood aloe creates an atmosphere that stimulates, eroticizes and favours concentration.



# CYPRAEA EGLANTINA

Cowrie Shell  
Porcelain Snail

## SUBSTANCE

### Mussels and snails in general . . . <sup>1 2 3</sup>

The ancient Egyptians said that the gods do not count those days in the life of a human, which were spent by collecting mussels or sea snails. This could signify that collecting shells imparts a form of timelessness. (See the symptoms of the “mind” chapter.)

Shells are the treasures of the oceans. For several reasons, they were often collected even in prehistoric times: their beautiful shapes and colors, as food, decorations, trade objects, for rituals (in African cultures) and even as a primitive form of currency.

Most of the shell families known to us today, particularly the ones living in warm waters, developed about 65-70 million years ago. The shells we enjoy now are the result of an evolutionary process that lasted millions of years and made the shells adapt to the constantly changing living environment.

The mussel or snail shells are the hard outer calcium (calcium carbonate) coverings, secreted by the individual mussels and snails. These shell-forming organisms are part of the mollusks, the invertebrate. *Aristotle* gave the name *mollusk*. His *History of Animals* (332 B.C.) was considered a standard work of natural history. In this book, he was the first to give a detailed report about anatomy and living habits of many mollusks. Aristotle started using the name *malachia* for cephalopodae (cuttle fish),

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<sup>1</sup> Hill, Leonard, “Muscheln, Schätze der Meere”, Könnemann-Publishing, 1996

<sup>2</sup> Encyclopedia; Urania animal kingdom; invertebrate animals

<sup>3</sup> Tucker Abbott, R., PhD, “Mussels and sea snails”

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